

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL 20th March 2017

Report of the Dearne Area Council Manager

Dearne Area Council Financial Position and Progress of Projects

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides an updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spend, and outlines the unallocated amount remaining for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial year
- 1.2 This report also provides an update in relation to projects that were previously agreed at the Dearne Area Council

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Dearne Area Council members note the updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spend and the unallocated amounts remaining for 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- 2.2 Dearne Area Council members note the progress of previously agreed projects that have been committed out of their 2016/17 and 2017/18 finances
- 2.3 Dearne Area Council members agree the continuation of the Kingdom service based on their in principle agreement for the contract that started in April 2016

3.0 Financial update 2016/17

- 3.1 Including monies carried forward from 2015/16 the Dearne Area Council had an allocation of £220,664 to spend on meeting the Dearne Area Council priorities in the 16/17 financial year. To date the Area Council have spent and earmarked £217,280 on previously agreed projects/services, leaving £3,384 in the budget from the original allocation.
- 3.2 Although earmarked the Dearne Area Council have only spent £57,247 of its £80,000 Dearne Development Fund allocation leaving £22,753 of monies earmarked to spend on meeting future area priorities. The next panel will meet on the 22nd of March 2017.

Not all of the eight allocations will have cleared at the end of the 2016/17 financial year as most of these funds are paid on a monthly basis over a period of twelve months and some of the projects were only due to start in November and January. Further the community newsletter was previously earmarked out of the 2016/17 finances but will not come out of the budget until after April.

- 3.3 The fixed penalty notice income will also have to be added to the unspent allocation in the 2016/17 financial year. The actual amount will not be known until the end of the financial year. Therefore taking this into consideration and excluding earmarked or committed funds the total amount unallocated for the 2016/17 financial year approximately will be £9,199.

4.0 **Financial update 2017/18**

- 4.1 At the Dearne Area Council on the 21st November 2016 Members also agreed the procurement of the volunteer, education and environmental service at a cost of £75,000. Further members agreed to allocate £72,162 to Fund the investigations and housing officer roles for the Dearne from their 2017/18 allocation for a further year.

- 4.2 However at a contract meeting on the 1st of March with the case management service manager, the restructure of the service was discussed. Both officers previously employed through the area council have secured a role in the core service through this process. Although the private sector housing officer has secured a position she still wants to continue to work in the Dearne for a further year, although her role in the main structure will remain secure. The investigations officer role in the core structure is a promotion for the officer so will stay in the core service.

Therefore from April 2017 the Dearne will not have an investigations officer solely working in the area. However assurances have been made that all cases fed up to the investigations officer from the Dearne private sector housing officer will still be investigated in a timely manner. Therefore out of the Dearne Area Council allocation for 2017/18 it will now only cost the Area Council £36,081.

In addition in the new structure the Dearne and South Areas will share 2 case management officers, a team leader, a victim support officer, private sector housing officer and 2 community safety officers. Meaning an increase in the resources available to the Dearne Area.

- 4.3 Further the Kingdom Enforcement commission is due to continue for a further year after March 31st 2017, as per the original contract agreement. Based on the fact that the financial position for 2017 is now secure, satisfactory performance/ delivery and members of the Dearne Area Council approving the continuation of the Kingdom enforcement service, this will cost the Dearne Area Council £32,898 from their 2017/18 allocation. This amount includes the BMBC community safety contribution.
- 4.4 In the 2020 Barnsley financial statement the Area Council was allocated £200,000 for the 17/18 financial year. Taking all of the above into consideration this brings the total spend already committed from the 2017/18 financial year to £143,979 leaving £65,220 unallocated that can be earmarked for projects. This amount does not include any previously earmarked or committed funds from the 2016/17 financial year.

5.0 **Progress of projects**

- 5.1 At the Dearne Area Council meeting on the 19th of September members agreed to allocate £10,000 towards the Railway embankment project. This project has since received £40,000 from section 106 monies and the group have submitted other bids for equipment and bulbs. The group will be discussing the access route to the site and how it will be managed. Meetings are taking place with landscape architects and Twiggs are already on site clearing.
- 5.2 Members also agreed to the procurement of the environmental and volunteering service at a cost of £75,000 with the option to continue the service for a further year. Two applications were submitted and evaluated. The evaluation panel consisted of the Area manager, Chris Smith from Parks Service and Cllr C Johnson. Interviews took place on the 12th of January 2017. Twiggs were the successful providers and the area manager is working on the reporting schedule and outcomes framework that will be reported on a quarterly basis.

Appendix one- financial update

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